

WASHINGTON STATE

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS OFFICER

MONTHLY REPORT

March 2005

(Corrected Copy)

CATEGORY	MAR 2005	MAR 2004	YTD 05	YTD 04
CSEPP INCIDENTS	4	3	20	9
DOE INCIDENTS	0	1	1	1
FIRE	36	18	55	33
HAZMAT	166	151	516	429
OTHER	23	20	68	64
911 OUTAGES	3	1	10	4
SAR	41	32	119	107
TERRORIST	0	0	0	0
WEATHER	7	5	12	18
CGS INCIDENTS	0	0	1	0
TOTAL	280	231	802	665

LEGEND

CSEPP	Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program
DOE	Department of Energy, Hanford Site
SAR	Search and Rescue Missions
HAZMAT	Hazardous Materials Incidents
WEATHER	Weather Incidents (throughout state, i.e., Flood, High Winds, and Snow)
CGS	Columbia Generating Station
FIRE	Forest Fire Incidents
OTHER	This category includes a wide variety of incidents, i.e., Tsunami, Earthquake, Critical Incident Stress Debriefings, Bomb Threat, etc...
911	911 Service Outages

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

- On March 1, Cowlitz County initiated a search for two young females lost in the J.E. Johnson Road area. Assistance was requested from Pacific, Thurston, Lewis,

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Skamania, and Clark Counties. The missing girls were found OK at 0900 hours on March 2nd.

- On March 2, the Umatilla Depot reported that GB dilute agent was spilled in the lab and was cleaned-up completely with bleach.
- On March 4, King County Sheriff Deputies commenced a recovery operation for a male climber southeast of North Bend on McClellan Butte. Due to treacherous terrain, additional assistance from Pierce and Snohomish Counties responded to assist in the mission. The operation was successfully completed during the early morning hours on March 5.
- On March 6, Snohomish County started a search for two men overdue from a day climb on Mt. Whitehorse. Additional resources were requested from Skagit and King Counties. Both men were later found in good condition.
- On March 6, a 3.5 magnitude earthquake occurred 6.8 mile southeast of Granite Falls in Snohomish County. No damage was reported.
- On March 8, a small explosive event at Mount St. Helens volcano began at approximately 5:25 p.m. PST. Pilot reports indicate that the resulting steam-and-ash plume reached an altitude of about 36,000 feet above sea level within a few minutes and drifted downwind to the east-northeast. The principal event lasted about 30 minutes with intensity gradually declining throughout. The USGS cascades volcano observatory lost radio signals from three monitoring stations in the crater soon after the event started. The event followed a few hours of slightly increased earthquake activity that was noted but not interpreted as precursory activity. Ash fall advisory was issued for Yakima, Kittitas, Grant, Adams, Lincoln, Benton, and Franklin counties. Volcano advisory remains at Alert Level 2.
- On March 12, the University of Washington Seismology lab reported an earthquake, magnitude 3.3. The earthquake occurred at 7:37 PM and was located 15.2 miles north of Olympia. There were no reports of damages. However at the same time of the quake numerous 911 centers throughout the state reported observing bright lights in the sky. A confirmation was received from the National Operations Center stating that meteor showers were occurring in the northwest region. No debris was reported entering the earth's atmosphere.

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- On March 13, Grays Harbor County commenced a search for two overdue fishermen on the Wynoochee River. Additional assistance was requested from United State Coast Guard through the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC) to fly the river from the mouth of the river to the subject's located vehicle. The Coast Guard helicopter found the fishermen, who were taken to a local hospital for evaluation.
- On March 13, Snohomish County conducted a search/rescue of one individual believed to have gone over a cliff face at Mt Pilchuk. Mountain Rescue personnel were coordinated from Olympic Mountain Rescue, Skagit, King and Pierce Counties. The subject was discovered deceased late in the evening of March 13.
- On March 15, the National Weather Service issued a High Wind Watch for Benton, Columbia, Franklin, Klickitat and Walla Walla Counties as a new storm front pushed into Southeast Washington.
- On March 16, the National Weather Service issued a High Wind Warning and a Dust Storm Warning for Yakima, Klickitat, Benton, Franklin, Walla Walla, and Columbia Counties in effect until midnight March 17. Sustained winds of 30 - 45 miles per hour with gusts of 60 miles per hour are expected. Near zero visibility was also expected in some regions. The weather system weakened and all weather warnings were terminated at 0505 a.m. the next day.
- On March 16, Puget Sound Naval Shipyard opened a mission to request MAST helicopter support and transport a burn victim from their facility in Bremerton to Seattle. The request was later cancelled when the facility decided to ground-transport the victim.
- On March 16, a report was received from Skagit County DEM of a private citizen on Sinclair Island discovering an aluminum cylinder marked "hazardous device, notify law enforcement or military." Coordination's were made with Whidbey Island Naval Air Station, EOD Northwest Detachment for the removal of the device. Naval personnel identified the cylinder as being a marine marker and not extremely dangerous however, it could be ignited if not properly handled.
- On March 17, a 4 year-old boy was reported missing in the Hilltop area of Tacoma. Search dogs, 4 x 4's, Pierce Counties TAC 1 vehicle and ground ESAR were

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coordinated to search for the boy. After a 2 ½ hour search the boy was located unharmed.

- On March 18, the National Weather Service issued a Gale Warning for the marine waters of Camano Island to Point Roberts, Puget Sound and Hood Canal. All watches and warnings were canceled on the morning of March 20 with no major impact on the State.
- On March 19, a 240 ft Barge, "Millicoma", broke away from the tug "Howard Olsen", due to severe weather near the Columbia River Bar. The barge was property of Foss Maritime and had approximately 5,000 gallons of diesel in its double-hulled bay tank. The barge was located on the morning of March 20 in a cove near North Head, north of the Columbia River mouth in Washington. The barge had been heavily damaged and Coast Guard reported that no fuel had leaked into the water. The Coast Guard, Washington Department of Ecology, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and other response personnel are on scene to retrieve the barge when severe weather breaks and allows access. The barge was finally freed from the bar and pulled to Astoria, Oregon for repairs on March 22nd after pumping the 5000 gallons of diesel fuel onto another storage barge. No significant damage to the environment was reported as a result of this incident.
- On March 22, the National Weather Service issued a Winter Storm Warning for Walla Walla and Columbia Counties until 10 AM March 23. Three to five inches of snow accumulated this evening below 1500 feet and 2 inches of snow accumulated on Wed morning.
- On March 25, the National Weather Service issued a Gale Warning for Camano Island to Point Roberts and a Flood Watch for the Skokomish River in Mason County. The Flood Watch was revised to a Flood Warning the next day as the river gage indicated the river was going to approach flood stage early on Sunday morning. The Gale Warning and Flood Warning were rescinded early on Sunday as the weather system moved through the state.
- On March 28, the National Weather Service issued a Winter Storm Warning for the south Washington Cascades. Snow levels were expected to drop to 2500 feet with a possible accumulation of 22 inches of snow. Also, a Gale Warning was issued for

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all of the inland waters of Puget Sound and Hood Canal. The Gale Warning was cancelled on March 29.

- For the month of March 2005 the SEOO's:
 - Issued 52 warnings to jurisdictions for imminent or occurring emergencies
 - Issued 2 warnings to tribal nations for imminent or occurring emergencies
 - Conducted 868 notifications to state agency liaisons for imminent or occurring emergencies
 - Coordinated 32 resources for search, rescue, recovery and response operations
 - Participated in 25 exercises of which 16 were vessel spill drills
 - Made 1,083 and answered 1,424 telephone calls
 - Conducted 1,825 National Warning System Tests, conducted 285 Comprehensive Emergency Management Network (CEMNET) radio tests. (connects all counties and many cities via Zetron Radio Console)
 - Conducted 58 dedicated line tests with the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP)
 - Conducted 3 dedicated line tests with the Department of Energy, Hanford Site (DOE)
 - Conducted 5 dedicated line tests with the Columbia Generating Station (CGS)